

February 13, 2017

Re: Proposed Bill 6880

Fairfield Senior Advocates is a nonpartisan citizen action organization dedicated to aiding our senior population. We appreciate the opportunity to submit a statement in support of Proposed Bill 6880. This bill offers a comprehensive and much needed updating of 8-30g.

Fairfield Senior Advocates believes that currently 8-30g discriminates against the senior population by failing to allot an equal number of Housing Unit Equivalent Points to the Points credited to family dwellings. When 8-30g was devised, it intended to incentivize the creation of affordable housing for families. Seniors were perceived as already benefiting from affordable housing programs. As of 2017 seniors must compete with all other categories of eligible persons and families for affordable housing. Providing only a one-half Housing Unit Equivalent Point discriminates against seniors and drastically reduces opportunities for the construction of affordable senior housing. Your Proposed Bill 6880 is an important positive step in eliminating senior discrimination in affordable housing.

8-30g fails to address the special needs of the disabled of any age that require affordable housing. We respectfully request that you add a provision to Proposed Bill 6880 that requires all housing units constructed under 8-30g to be Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant. This will not significantly add to construction costs but will provide significant affordable housing opportunities to a segment of our population in desperate need.

We appreciate the efforts of State Senator Hwang and State Representatives Kupchick, Devlin and McCarthy-Vahey in support of seniors and for sponsoring Proposed Bill 6880.

Thank you.

Urb Leimkuhler
Coordinating Director
Fairfield Senior Advocates